



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS STATEWIDE CELEBRATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

*GO SERV Programs Honor the Leader in Commemorative Parades and Activities*

**SACRAMENTO** – The Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) announced today the success of many of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities at some of the volunteer programs they oversee.

“Governor Gray Davis’ GO SERV programs ‘*Made It A Day On, Not A Day Off*’ once again this year,” said GO SERV Executive Director Chuck Supple. “Our programs created an excellent opportunity for Californians to participate in activities and celebrations in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his incredible integrity and the issue of equality, the valiant cause for which he fought.”

Across the state, from Fort Bragg to Escondido, AmeriCorps members and GO SERV programs gathered to honor the civil rights leader.

In Los Angeles County, the Early Childhood Education Literacy Project, Project REACH, Project APPLE and the Chancellor’s Office Foster Youth Mentoring Project put on the “14<sup>th</sup> Annual City of Long Beach, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Unity Parade.” It showcased AmeriCorps members marching, promoting the program and collecting books to be distributed to area children. The parade ended with a celebration in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in Long Beach.

In Palm Springs, 44 AmeriCorps members and the Martin Luther King Commemoration Committee held the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration. It included a commemorative march in downtown Palm Springs, a program of distinguished speakers, musical and choral presentations and a pageantry of “Dreams For A Better World” expressions by elementary and middle school students from 14 local schools.

The East Bay Conservation Corps, along with many other community agencies honored the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through cultural events, community speakers and garden and community beautification projects. Children painted tiles and other art projects that represent and commemorate his life, values, contributions and memory.

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## **GO SERV PROGRAMS HONOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 2-2-2-2**

Also in Northern California, 55 AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project members and staff participated in activities celebrating the values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: justice, equality and service. A few of these activities were: a multicultural fair in Crescent City with a candlelight walk in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an NAACP-sponsored community ceremony in Eureka, a community-sponsored reflective event in Arcata, a riparian restoration project in Freshwater, a soup kitchen project in Fort Bragg and an environmental education project at the Booker T. Washington Community Center outside the Presidio.

GO SERV funds each of these programs and implements structure to volunteer groups in California. GO SERV promotes service and volunteerism and supports more than 7,000 AmeriCorps members who work in community-service throughout the entire state.

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